



Coffee & Conversation

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Campus Outreach and Events
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Campus Outreach and Events hosted Coffee and Conversation on Wednesday the 15th of March and asked students a series of questions in various locations across campus. Students surveyed in the Massey College of Business were asked questions regarding student life and academics, those surveyed in the Beaman were asked specifically about student life, and those surveyed in MPAC were asked about student life and music. Students were also asked whether they feel welcome in the Belmont community and if SGA can do anything to improve that. Students responded to the survey with their various thoughts and opinions, which we compiled below.

Initial Intent

The goal of Coffee and Conversation is to ask students how we can better improve different aspects of campus life. The purpose of hosting the events in three separate locations, was to get opinions of a more diverse group of students, rather than just receiving input from business students in Massey or graduate students in McWhorter. We created three separate surveys to create more major specific questions, to get more specific and useful feedback.

Time, Date, and Who the event included

Coffee and Conversation was hosted on the first floor of Massey, the MPAC courtyard, and in the Beaman. SGA set up tables offering free coffee and hot chocolate and asked students passing by to complete the survey.

Discussion Notes

On a scale of 1 to 5, how much do you agree with the statement “I have enjoyed my time as a Belmont student,” with 1 meaning “strongly disagree” and 5 meaning “strongly agree.”

Responses: 106 **1: 1, 2: 4, 3: 9, 4: 41, 5: 51** Average: 4.292

On a scale of 1 to 5, how much do you agree with the statement, “I have found BELL Core courses to be valuable,” with 1 meaning “strongly disagree” and 5 meaning “strongly agree.”

Responses: 34 **1: 5, 2: 4, 3: 8, 4: 13, 5: 4** Average: 3.205

On a scale of 1 to 5, how much do you agree with the statement “Belmont creates spaces which help to foster community” with 1 meaning “strongly disagree” and 5 meaning “strongly agree.”

Responses: 46 **1: 0, 2: 6, 3: 9, 4: 19, 5: 12** Average: 3.804

On a scale of 1 to 5, how much do you agree with the statement “Belmont has enough opportunities and resources for its music students,” with 1 meaning “strongly disagree” and 5 meaning “strongly agree.”

Responses: 33 **1: 2, 2: 3, 3: 4, 4: 14, 5: 10** Average: 3.818

What can Belmont do to better student life?

- Maybe more diversity
- Leave more room for students to learn the responsibilities and lessons of being an adult/on their own. The visitation policy is childish, restrictive, and at times demeaning.
- More understanding of why we need certain courses (i.e. First Year Seminar)
- I think money is a big issue here (textbook alternatives). Ipads given by Belmont with our textbooks? I rack up \$300 on 1 class for a textbook that I barely use and online codes.
- Offer more diversity events & learning
- Focus on the fact this school's dynamic of students is changing! This isn't a Christian U anymore!
- More freedom in class selection
- More scholarships!
- Bigger parking spaces
- More transparency from senior leadership
- Make the caf have more options with their food choices
- Roll over declining points
- More mentorship organizations
- Provide more non-religious activities and more music opportunities to advance for non-music school students
- Provide more food options.
- More parking spaces and less growth (rapid growth) because we're not equipped for that just yet.
- Add wifi. Stronger connections saves stress on the student side.
- Encourage more.
- It's good
- Improve quality of cafeteria food.
- Less requirements in terms of housing, credit hour limitations, etc.
- I think student life is pretty great, actually!
- More social events
- Have more interdisciplinary events
- Get a football team
- Registration could improve and the housing situations with apartments
- We have to judge each other less
- Give more representation of diverse cultures and activities
- Keep us involved by offering things that will contribute to learning here
- More inclusive activities
- Have more events
- Make student's voices heard
- Give the organizations more opportunities to openly express themselves with off campus events
- Be more inclusive
- Make students participate in democracy
- Have more pregame festivities for sporting events
- More support towards Greek life
- Bigger student life center/meeting places similar to the Beaman and Beaman A&B. Places not as sterile as Gabhart

- More fostering of community; “family” programs
- Create better unity between all organizations on campus
- Greek spaces
- More free coffee and surveys!
- Expand Greek life and treat students with respect
- Skill based programs to help integrate students into the Nashville community
- Accommodate off campus living in a more adequate manner
- Lessen the amount of administrative processes that student organizations have to complete. For example, BruinLink, Advisor requirements, etc
- More transparency
- Listen to us more
- Longer practice hours
- More study spaces
- More free coffee
- Add practice hours
- Charge a little less money
- Help the honors college and other majors work together
- Social events
- Focus on practice rooms
- More free events
- Better cafeteria options
- More practice rooms for instrumentalists that are close on campus
- Longer practice hours
- More practice rooms
- Small things like more practice rooms and the Internet not crashing during class registration
- More forums
- Less focus on landscaping more on music buildings
- Longer advising appointments at the end of sophomore year
- Longer caf hours and more food options
- More practice rooms
- Encourage students to attend events
- The music department is underfunded and not prioritized compared with the rest of the university
- Try to improve things for the students rather than making new offices their first priority
- Provide more non-credit ensembles
- More inclusive organizations
- Have more groups for the students. Don’t have audition week for ensembles the week after spring break
- Tune pianos in practice rooms and have more practice rooms
- Provide cheaper tuition or allow 18 credit hours for students without more cost
- Practice hours
- Stop trying to force 100% bid rates on the Fraternities. It makes no practical sense and will only serve in ruining Greek life at Belmont.
- better library
- Let us take classes that focus on our degree. One per semester is not working.

- Be more responsive to questions and treat everyone equally. There have been many occasions where I have felt racism from staff and unfair treatment. Every person should be treated the same no matter who they are.
- Add Greek space!
- I think redirecting the focus from prospective students to current students. Belmont does such an amazing job in admissions, they go above and beyond, but once students get here I see that you don't do as much to keep us here. I also believe that senior leadership should recognize that the student population isn't mostly Baptist anymore and that we are a more inclusive student body. So there are some rules and procedures that now don't align with what the majority of students value.
- Have a pool
- It is hard for students to keep up with grades when professors are not required to keep up with grade books online. Most professors won't even update the log until the very end of the semester, in which it is too late for the student to make any adequate changes or communicate that they may be struggling if they are unaware that they are. I propose that Belmont have a grace period for professors in entering graded works into an online database such as Blackboard or Schoology (one of their choosing, perhaps) of a maximum of three weeks after the assignment was due to be turned in for grading by the student. This will create a healthier learning relationship between the student and teacher, and allows students to take more control in their studies. When students pay such extensive rates for schooling they should be fully aware of how they are doing in the classes in which they are paying for. It is too troubling for professors- and students, frankly- to have to email each professor individually about grades.
- Allow us to take more credits. Less regulation for student orgs. We feel stifled in our leadership, not supported.

What can Belmont do to improve its curriculum? Do you have any suggestions for changes to the BELL Core?

- Have more engaging classes in some subjects
- Leave more room for electives but continue to require humanities - humanities are invaluable to the college experience - they are SO important! P.S. do not require so much science to BA's it's just silly and a waste of my time and money
- More choices to expand. Like instead of must have 2 languages, maybe 1 language and 1 more humanities
- I think more resume building classes, classes on excel, and interviewing
- NO SEMINAR!
- Give priority to majors
- BELL Core is good
- Have more hands-on learning
- Get rid of the LCC, they seem forced and most do not go together
- Get rid of seminar
- Be more specific with when I can take a class
- More variety in choices of math/science/speech classes if it's going to be required
- More useful classes for real life
- Yes, the BELL Core needs to be less rigorous. I don't need 3 math courses, 2 sciences, 9 humanities, and an LCC. I'll be a junior next semester still completing BELL Core.

- I really enjoy LCCs. At first I was skeptical, but after taking this I've seen the benefits.
- Make it challenging
- Take out some gen eds for those with busy majors.
- I can't think of anything
- I think the curriculum is great, but at times, the homework/readings involved can be overwhelming!
- For the most part most of the BELL Core classes have been satisfactory
- add more allowed credit hours without charging students
- LESS BELL Core classes. I want to focus on my major.
- I don't think there needs to be many changes, but definitely lessening the Bell Core requirements would help. Some classes are useful, but some don't have anything to do with what people are going to do in life and they ultimately take away from people learning from classes in their own major at a faster rate.
- First-year seminar was way too much work for what it is worth- I did not learn anything but stressed about that course more than I have stressed about any of my courses!
- Eliminate LCC classes.
- My BELL Core experience has been fine. Nothing amazing but nothing terrible either. I'm honestly not sure how I would improve the curriculum for the BELL Core.
- It would be nice to have some classes that are more specific and hands on for students outside of the major, for example we have to take a Fine Arts class but the classes we are allowed to take are like Art History and Film Studies, when it would be nice to take a beginners photography or drawing class or maybe scriptwriting for people who aren't in the major but still want to have classes that push their creativity (and you don't have to take a bunch of art prerequisites) .
- We spend an extensive amount of time studying WHAT our education should look like, which is quite valuable. However, we do not spend any time learning to use the resources we are expected to use on an everyday basis in First Year Seminar. As a freshman we are thrown into the Belmont melting pot with resources like Blackboard, BannerWeb, DegreeWorks, etc. at our fingertips and are never taught how to use them properly. I didn't know how to access my graded assignments until 3 1/2 months into school; We were never taught to use some of the most important resources to obtain our core education. The BELL core classes are wonderful- but could better set us up for success with a stronger overview of our resources.
- BELL Core math is inadequate. Especially for a business major.

What can Belmont do to foster community and make students feel more connected to the University?

- More free coffee
- Put more efforts into TT and forming relationships at the start of the semester
- Give students more opportunities for creating clubs and going to events
- Less of a boundary between student and teacher. I feel lesser than them in the class
- More events that cater to the different activity levels
- Open more "wobble room" for student activity; more variety
- Have churches come in; offer more variety of religion
- More clubs and meetings of people with similar interests
- Have more diverse events not only catered to country music

- More club events
- More non-sport events
- Offer projects involving different majors to help the school or community in a big way
- Create programs or initiatives to promote love of diversity and an inclusive atmosphere
- More advertisements for students to get involved
- Make convocations that cater to everyone
- Listen to students! Focus on diversity
- Remove Blackboard
- Have social events in the lawn
- Admin go to grad and professional schools
- More inclusion of all organizations
- More fun events! Make homecoming week a bigger deal
- More transparency between administration and students. Also, please fix registration because it's way too stressful
- Get rid of restrictive policies (visiting hours)
- Plan more events for certain events like activities (games, movies, etc.)
- More group oriented work throughout gen-eds
- Equal meeting space for all student orgs
- Belmont could advertise small groups more. I just found a small group this semester!
- Show students that they truly care and that they are more than dollar signs. Be less "fake" and political
- More networking opportunities within the University
- Keep doing a ton of convocations with guest speakers
- It can get more feedback from students about what they are interested in
- Spend more money on resources and opportunities for current students than expansion, beautification, and marketing for prospective students
- More connection between organizations
- Create more clubs around student passions!
- Integrate different departments more often
- Though the student organizations try to foster community the administration does little to support them and seems to actively undermine them.
- more big community events
- Allow pets
- They can help create equality and give more rights to everyone. I'm in college, though I feel I am still in Middle School. My Middle School wanted everyone to act like adults, but treated us like children and sometimes it feels like that here as well.
- I partly feel that this is more up to the students than to the university. It is up to the students to find something on campus that gets them to engage in the campus. That being said it's not all up to the students it's also up to Belmont. One of the things I believe would help is if you stop making the residential halls so crowded. As an RA it is so difficult for me to get connected with 60+ residents and for those residents to get connected to each other. Residence life is a huge component of college and where many people get there connection to their university but we as RA's can't make those deep connections if you make us have 40-60 residents on our hall.
- Giving students more opportunities not only to go to events, but to host events.

- There is poor visual communication. What ever happened to billboards and expression? I feel like I am walking into a hospital as I walk to class. Creativity is not stimulated. The inside of our building all look the same and stale.

What can Belmont do to better support its music students? Besides practice rooms, what resources and opportunities do students want or need?

- Connect them more with the outside world and not just Belmont
- Online organization
- Better music library/ more classical ensembles
- More practice rooms
- Easier ways to get contacted for recitals
- More hours to meet with teachers
- Dance facilities
- Have more instrumental practice rooms close to campus. I want more gigs to be posted
- Not require as many MUGs
- More mental health services
- More performance opportunities on stage
- Connections with industry opportunities
- More performance opportunities at a venue that Belmont owns
- Classes should meet two times per week for 1 hour instead of once per week for bigger labs-especially the keyboard lab. It is hard to play for 2 hours with proper posture when the room is so squished
- More opportunities to perform/work on performance techniques
- More support and attendance at events
- Free hugs
- Weekly showcase
- New PA systems that work (MPA 12)
- A new building (we are the only department without a grand new building)
- More general budget compared to the outside university
- Dance studios- I never got injured dancing, until I got here
- Provide more collaborative ensembles for any students (jazz, rock, funk, bluegrass, etc.)
- More public performance classes that teach you how to perform on stage and command the audience's attention
- More sound equipment in classrooms
- Better tech labs- not equipment but room
- More inclusion
- More MUG during convo hour

What can SGA do to better your experience here at Belmont? Do you have any other thoughts on this topic that you would like to share with us?

- Make themselves more known
- Bring back the elective convocation credit
- Neutral gender bathrooms
- Art exhibitions
- Compost bins; more sustainability in general

- More promotion on things like Instagram. This way the less avid email checkers can see what is happening
- More healthy options!
- Show Sodexo that they need us more than we need them
- Put on more activities for students to join
- Share our ideas with Belmont officials
- SGA is doing a great job at representing students!
- Incentives for ex. cur.
- More coffee
- More free events
- Public music in the courtyard
- SGA listens to the students when the administration doesn't. I'm deeply concerned with the decline of student experience in the music school due to rapid growth and severe underfunding
- We repeatedly say the same things that need improving, yet nothing is being done
- Less visitor parking and more student parking by music buildings
- Help us understand what is going on internally
- More coffee
- Get the word out!
- More coffee and conversation
- Keep being you, you're doing great
- You seem to help as much as you can
- Just provide a space for people to meet
- I know that many student requests are made but not fulfilled. So, try to include thoughts of students
- SGA is doing a great job
- I think Belmont is going in a great direction
- Unaware that SGA existed or what they do
- Provide interview practice
- More later events- keep academic buildings open
- More printers! Not just in the library or Massey, but Johnson too
- More free coffee
- Advocate for the expansion of Greek life
- Make yourself more so at the forefront of growth at Belmont
- SGA can be more of a presence on campus
- Collaborate with student orgs more to help create change in policies that will benefit all of us
- Creating partnerships
- Encourage us to come to the office as a space to voice our opinions, not just during designated times
- Keep hosting fun events
- Force the administration to listen to the concerns of the students
- Fix the caf food :)
- Nope, I think I've covered everything.

- I think this year y'all have done an amazing job. Being a senior I've gotten to see SGA and how it's improved. This year by far has been the best year for y'all and getting our voices heard. So thank you for all the hard work that you do on behalf of the students.
- Thank you for listening!
- Keep up the good work this year. Y'all give me some hope of change.
- Maybe highlight what you have done/funded/helped on social media more so it is easier to be aware of what you have accomplished. I know there is some cool stuff, but not really sure about details.

Conclusions and Results

Most students seem to be pleased with their experience at Belmont, according to their ratings on the first two questions of the survey. With a substantial amount of feedback, there are many policy changes that should be considered.